

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1, 11, and 16 are amended and claim 3 is canceled. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, and 4-26 are pending in this application. Applicants respectfully request consideration of the pending claims at least in light of the following remarks.

Applicants respectfully submit that entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance by incorporating features identified as allowable by the Office Action; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration because all pending claims incorporate an allowable feature; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Applicants further submit that the amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Applicants thus respectfully request entry of the amendments.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Office Action's indication that claims 3 and 11 contain allowable subject matter and that claims 25 and 26 are allowed. By this Amendment, Applicants amend independent claims 1 and 16 to include the features of allowable claim 3 and cancel claim 3. Furthermore, Applicants amend claim 11 to depend from claim 1. Accordingly, all of pending claims 1, 2, and 4-26 are allowable.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 8, 9, and 12-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent 6,112,168 to Corston et al. (hereinafter "Corston").¹ Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claim 1 to include all of the features of allowable claim 3 and cancel claim 3. Accordingly, claim 1, and claims 2, 8, 9, and 12-13 that depend from claim 1, are allowable for at least the reasons that claim 3 is allowable, as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

The Office Action rejects claims 4-6, 10, 16-18, and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Corston in view of U.S. Patent 5,642,520 to Takeshita et al. (hereinafter "Takeshita"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The rejection is premised upon the presumption that Corston discloses, teaches, or suggests all the features of claims 1 and 16. Because, as discussed above, claims 1 and 16 are amended to include the allowable features of claim 3, claims 1 and 16, and claims 4-6, 10, 16-18, and 22-24 that depend from claims 1 and 16, are allowable for at least the reasons that claim 3 is allowable, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

The Office Action rejects claims 14, 15, 19, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Corston in view of Takeshita and further in view of Barzilay et al., *Using Lexical Chains for Text Summarization* (hereinafter "Barzilay"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

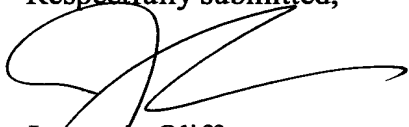
¹ Applicants note that in the first sentence of item 4, page 3, the Office Action rejects claims 1-13, 18-18, 20, and 22-24. Applicants believe that this is a typographical error resulting from the previous Office Action's identical rejection. Because the substance of the present rejection only addresses claims 1, 2, 8, 9, and 12-13; claims 4-6, 10, 14-18, 20 and 22-24 are separately rejected later in the Office Action; and claims 3 and 11 are indicated as allowable; Applicants only consider claims 1, 2, 8, 9, and 12-13 to be rejected in the present rejection.

The rejection is premised upon the presumption that Corston discloses, teaches, or suggests all the features of claims 1 and 16. Because, as discussed above, claims 1 and 16 are amended to include the allowable features of claim 3, claims 1 and 16, and claims 14, 15, 19, and 21 that depend from claims 1 and 16, are allowable for at least the reasons that claim 3 is allowable, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Applicants earnestly solicit favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 2, and 4-26.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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